

Cave-in kills area native

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The Roswell native who was killed in the roof collapse at a Lubbock restaurant was remembered by her mother as a bright young woman who loved art, music and history.

Tara Annette Wilson, 23, died in the roof collapse at the Little Panda restaurant at 908 Slide Road shortly after noon Monday.

Lt. Mark Ethridge with the Lubbock Fire Department said investigators hadn't determined the cause Tuesday but that rain and strong winds may have been a factor.

Because there was no fire, fire marshal planned to hand the investigation over to the restaurant's insurance company, as well as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Nine other people who were in the building were taken to Covenant and University Medical Centers. Ethridge said only one other person was hurt seriously.

The Little Panda building, formerly a Taco Bell restaurant, was built in 1977.

Susan Wilson said her daughter always had been interested in archaeology.

"We visited ruins and went on many family camping trips," Wilson said. "It really grabbed her attention and she just ran with it."

Wilson said Tara was an accomplished flute player and taught herself to play acoustic and electric guitar. She took Arabic in college in hopes of one day traveling to Egypt to do archaeological work.

Wilson was born on March 14, 1983, in Roswell. Her elementary and middle school education was split between Gateway Christian School and home schooling. She was a 2001 Goddard High School graduate and received her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Texas Tech University in August 2005.

She was employed by Texas Tech at the Lubbock Lake Landmark, where she worked part-time as a student and full-time following graduation doing archaeological work. She loved going on archaeological digs and also enjoyed camping, photography, biking and hiking.

Wilson also is survived by her father, Al Wilson, and her brother, Jared Wilson, of Roswell.

Funeral services for Wilson will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday at Christ's Church in Roswell. Pastor Gerry Chavez will officiate. Services are under the direction of Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.